



THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY



BCS Forms Open Source Specialist Group

1 March 2005: A closer focus on promoting greater computer software source transparency, choice, development and distribution is being created through the British Computer Society, which has formed an Open Source Specialist Group

Following the BCS tradition of exploring and promoting members' views and experiences in the diverse areas of research and development, the BCS Open Source specialist group represents a seismic shift from the traditional model of software development and distribution.

According to Patrick Tarpey, interim chair of the new group, "Open Source is already being embraced without the consent of 'traditional established' computing structures of distribution and ownership. The Internet has made this possible.

"However Open Source is not just an issue for IT Professionals. Young people are engaging Open Source technology, even if they are unaware of this fact. Tens of millions downloading of the Azureus Bit Torrent Client since its launch in June 2003 bear testament to this fact. Those downloading are not just computer IT experts but young people involved with activities such as file sharing.

"Also, despite the closed nature of their platforms and some media formats, Sony Computer Entertainment are long time adopters of Linux and other open source projects and systems."

The BCS Open Source specialist group's objectives and aims are:

- Provide reliable, honest, independent view on Open Source
- Continually monitor development of the Open Source paradigm
- Reduce professional uncertainty around the subject of Open Source
- Act as a centre of expertise for BCS use
- Encourage serious debate & examination of Open Source
- Educate and inform members and wider audience of Open Source news
- Bridging the digital divide by the promotion of OS solutions
- Recognition, support of Open Source projects and individuals
- Add to members professional knowledge & career development

Full details of the new BCS Group and its planned activities are available by visiting

<http://ossg.bcs.org/>

For further information contact:

**Christopher Webb
Press Officer
The British Computer Society
Tel: 01793 417606
Mail: press@hq.bcs.org.uk**

The British Computer Society (BCS) is the industry body for IT professionals and a Chartered Engineering Institution for Information Technology.

The BCS is responsible for setting standards for the IT profession. It is also leading the change in public perception and appreciation of the economic and social importance of professionally managed IT projects and programmes. In this capacity, the Society advises, informs and persuades industry and government on successful IT implementation.